

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraph on page 1, line 5 of the specification after the title:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a National Phase application of International Application No. PCT/US2004/016585, filed May 26, 2004, ~~which claims priority from United States patent application serial number 10/462,996, filed June 16, 2003, entitled METHOD FOR FIRMWARE VARIABLE STORAGE WITH EAGER COMPRESSION, FAIL-SAFE EXTRACTION AND RESTART TIME COMPRESSION SCAN METHOD AND SYSTEM TO SUPPORT NETWORK PORT AUTHENTICATION FROM OUT OF BAND FIRMWARE.~~ The present application claims priority to both International Application No. PCT/US2004/016585, filed May 26, 2004. ~~and United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/462,996, filed June 16, 2003.~~